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What's a Mere Four Miles.

Why all this excitement over the belated and somewhat reluctant admission that the first hydrogen bomb dropped from a high-level plane in the Pacific missed its aiming point by something less than four miles?

Had the experts and publicity men made this known at first, it is probable that there would be no fuss at all. And we do not believe Admiral Strauss of the AEC and Director Allen Dulles of the Central Intelligence Agency would now be in the Pacific trying to pin a break in security upon somebody in uniform.

For our part, we think the airmen responsible for loosing the bomb can easily be excused for a human error, since they were flying at 50,000 feet and were conducting a brand new and highly dangerous experiment.

They do not need an alibi but if called upon for one, one might be excused for asking: "What difference does it make?"

For Air Secretary Donald Quarles is correct in saying that the error "was not enough to have a serious effect on the success of the experiment."

Another way of putting it is that a four-mile miss does not make any difference where hydrogen bombs are concerned. So vast is the destructive power of this new weapon that it does not need to pinpoint the target. If you are four miles away when it hits, you are just as dead as you will ever be.

It is hard to imagine how any damage has been done by letting the facts be known, even though Admiral Strauss and Sleuth Dulles appear to think differently. But it is pleasing to hear that no disciplinary action will be taken against airmen who made history by dropping the bomb close enough to achieve its purpose. Anyway you look at it, that seems to be pretty good shooting.